## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

## Claims 1-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A process for preparing 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic esters of formula (I)

$$X^{1} \xrightarrow{O} CO_{2}R$$

$$X^{2} \xrightarrow{I} R^{1}$$

$$I_{R^{2}}$$

$$I_{R^{2}}$$

$$I_{R^{2}}$$

in which

R, R<sup>1</sup>, and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, and

 $X^1$  and  $X^2$  are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, comprising reacting an acid halide of formula (II)

$$X^1$$
 Hal (II)

in which

Hal is fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, and

 $X^1$  and  $X^2$  are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine with a dialkylaminoacrylic ester of formula (III)

in which R, R<sup>1</sup>, and R<sup>2</sup> are each as defined for formula (I), in a water-immiscible organic solvent in the presence of a base, wherein the base is an inorganic aqueous base, pyridine, or a pyridine derivative.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 8 wherein the base is pyridine, picoline, 2-methyl-5-ethylpyridine, 2,4,6-collidine, quinoline, or quinaldine.

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Claim 10 (withdrawn): A 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I)

$$X^{1} \xrightarrow{O} CO_{2}R$$

$$X^{2} \xrightarrow{I} R^{1}$$

$$R^{2}$$
(I)

in which

R, R<sup>1</sup>, and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, and  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine.

Claims 11-13 (canceled)

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